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I.

SICKNESS OF DOMESTICS.

To whom, in these Cases, should the Physician make his Charges?

THERE is great diversity in the customs of different families, both in the manner of nursing their servants during illness, and in discharging the various expenses incidentally incurred at such periods. This diversity is a source of embarrassment to the physician and the family, and is not unfrequently the cause of serious and permanent misunderstanding. Some rule ought therefore to be established, which may be observed in such cases by all families; and we would propose that the Faculty adopt a regulation to this effect, viz.,—*that all charges for attendance on domestics be made to the head of the family in which such domestics reside.* It is extremely cruel and dishonorable, in my apprehension, for the master of a house to allow his servants to pay their physician's bill. The payment of the wages should cease during medical attendance, but all further loss belongs to the family whose misfortune it is to have any of their domestics taken sick. Should any one, however, entertain a different opinion, the above regulation will leave him at liberty to settle the affair with his servants to his own liking. It only points out to the physician the course which he ought to take.

With these sentiments I request, Mr. Editor, that you would publish in the Journal the following extract from a work recently published, entitled "Domestic Duties,"—a work which contains many useful lessons on the medical, as well as domestic, management of the Lying-in room, and the diet and diseases of children.

"A.—In case of illness among our servants what ought we to do?

"B.—In illness, immediate attention and medical advice should be afforded to them, and the healthy servants, generally, should be encouraged to pay as much attention as their time will permit to their invalid fellow-creatures. Unless the state of the family and the nature of the disease peculiarly demand it, I think that it is cruel to send a sick servant either to poor, confined, and dirty lodgings, where poverty and misery stare him in the face, at the very moment he needs those comforts which his master's house might have afforded him; or to have him carried into a hospital, where, finding himself surrounded by fellow-sufferers, in various stages of disease and mortal decay, his heart sinks within him at the sight, and his recovery is, perhaps, retarded by the gloomy impression made on his mind. A little expense, a little inconvenience in the family, and a little feeling shown by a master or mistress to a sick servant, would generally be

well bestowed, and might be equally well repaid by his future faithful services.

"A.—I am surprised to hear you hint any censure on hospitals; I have always thought that, in case of the illness of a domestic or of any poor neighbor, an hospital is the very best place to which he can be sent.

"B.—It is far from my intention to object to hospitals generally; on the contrary, there are many cases that could not receive the same degree of attention, or have such advantages in medical consultation, as in the hospitals; where also, I believe, great care is bestowed on the comfort of every patient, and convalescence is promoted by good nursing. By the observation I had previously made, I did not mean to extend the censure beyond the cases of servants who are, too frequently, sent from the habitations of splendor and luxury into such dissimilar scenes; and sent, too, when their spirits are least able to endure the reverse. But while I recommend every kindness to be shown to your domestics during illness, I should not neglect to caution you against listening too frequently to all their little complaints. There is not, perhaps, any class of persons more fanciful, or inclined to imagine themselves more indisposed than they really are, than the one of which we are speaking. When a servant, however, falls into disease, the master is not only bound to see that he is properly attended and nursed, but the expense of such attendance is as much a debt of his own, as are the sums incurred for the maintenance of the servant. Nothing displays greater meanness than obliging a servant to defray the expense of medical attendance out of his wages."

Yours, &c.,

XX.

II.

NITRATE OF SILVER.

On the Efficacy of Nitrate of Silver, applied to Aphthæ of the Mouth, in a Letter to Dr. A. H. STEVENS, Professor of Surgery in the University of New-York.

SIR,—I had the pleasure of being present at your lecture on Friday, the 14th inst. Among a variety of interesting remarks you then made, were several in relation to the use of *lunar caustic* in aphthous affections of the mouth,—ascribing, however, the first use of the article to a French gentleman. Without laying claim to much originality in medical practice, I take this opportunity to state my own experience with the nitrate of silver in the disease above mentioned.

About four years ago I had under my care a case of cholera infantum, which yielded, in part, to medicinal agents. The child became, however, very weak and reduced. Aphthæ of the mouth and throat made their appearance, and finally covered the inside of the mouth and tongue, and obstructed the throat so that it became impossible to get down either nourishment or medicine.

Under these circumstances I had recourse to a strong solution of *lunar caustic*. It is sufficient to state that an immediate alteration for the better was perceived. In twenty-four hours the crust was entirely removed. Flakes as large as a shilling in three or four hours became loose, and were picked out by the child. A very thin crust appeared after the first was removed, in distinct patches; but they were removed in three or four days, and the child very soon wanted food; and what was singular, it ate with the greatest avidity cucumbers, pickles, &c., and apparently with benefit, or, at least,

without injury. As the recovery went on rapidly, considering the extreme prostration of the system, no precaution was taken to prevent the solution from getting into the stomach; on the contrary, it was rather to be desired than otherwise.

Another interesting case was treated by me last spring in the same manner, and with equal benefit. It was an infant about a week old, extremely weak and feeble; so much so, that it was unable to draw the breast. Astringent and other applications were first used, as alum, borax, goldthread, pyrola, &c. Laxatives, as magnesia, castor oil, and even calomel and rhubarb, were administered, but the aphthæ increased daily, until I resorted to the use of a strong solution of the nitrate of silver. By this article the crust was removed, leaving the surface beneath of a florid red, and in some places slightly ulcerated, or rather in a state that is termed a *raw surface*.

This article seems to be superior to every other for two reasons: 1st, the rapidity with which it removes the aphthæ; 2d, its altering the action of the surface to which it is applied. The above mode of practice is my own. I was led to adopt it from having seen repeatedly its good effects in indolent ulcers of the legs, and in some cases of inflammation of the eye. It is likewise my whole dependence in a peculiar *ulcer of the nipple*, which has a resemblance to aphthæ of the mouth. To conclude, I remark that there are four surfaces to which lunar caustic may be applied, viz., the surface of the eye, the mouth and fauces, the nipple, and the glans penis. I think I am warranted in making this conclu-

sion, from my experience of the article in question, and from a similarity of structure which I think exists in these parts.

Yours, sir, with the highest esteem, E. EMMONS.*

III.

VACCINATION AND RE-VACCINATION.

The prize recently offered for the best dissertation on Smallpox, Varioloid, and Vaccination, has been awarded to Dr. Stephen Brown, of New-York. This dissertation contains as compendious and clear a statement of the established laws observed by these diseases, and is on the whole as valuable a treatise on the subject, as we have seen. The following conclusions of Dr. Brown are of sufficient importance to claim the particular attention of the profession.

Conclusions.

"1st. THAT the smallpox is a disease of very ancient date, and had its origin in the east.

2d. That the character of this terrible disease, in its unmodified state, has undergone no change, since its description by Rhazes.

3d. That the successful mode of treating the smallpox, during the pustular stage, by puncturing the unripe pustules, as practised from the earliest times by the *Brahmins*, was never adopted by European practitioners.

4th. That the varioloid is a modification of the smallpox, and excited, in the system of those persons who have received but a *partial impression* from vaccination, by variolous poison.

5th. That those persons labor-

* N. Y. Med. and Phys. Journal.

ing under the varioloid will communicate the genuine, unmodified smallpox to those who have no protection either by previous smallpox or by vaccination; and that it is capable of exciting the varioloid in persons who have received but a *partial impression* from vaccination.

6th. That the smallpox virus is capable of affecting the inferior animals, especially during those *epidemic periods* when *atmospheric causes* give a more virulent character to the disease, and occasion a more rapid and general extension of its poison.

7th. That in some, at least, of the feathered tribes, it puts on a more severe and fatal character than in man, and that in quadrupeds a much milder form.

8th. That the *kinepox* in the cow, and the *grease* in the horse, are diseases produced in these animals, originally, by the operation of the variolous poison through their system, and that both impart their respective diseases to the human subject, and that each proves *equally* effectual in protecting the system against the smallpox.

9th. That the modifying effect which the smallpox virus receives in passing through the system of these animals, appears to be permanent; as no change in its mild character is perceptible, after a successive operation through the human system for more than thirty years.

10th. That the *kinepox* has proved a complete preventive of the smallpox, in the majority of cases, where vaccination has been performed by regular practitioners, even in the ordinary way of vaccinating in all seasons, and

with lymph obtained by disturbing the regular progress of the vaccine vesicle, which may be regarded as a dangerous interference with vaccination.

11th. That those cases where smallpox has supervened to vaccination, have, in the great majority of cases, been a very mild disease, and seldom, if ever, death has occurred under its influence; and had we no means of lessening this comparative number of susceptible cases, it could afford not a shadow of an argument against the practice of vaccination.

12th. But we aver that these cases can be diminished even to an insignificant number, by attending properly to their true causes, *two* of which, viz., the *laceration* of the *vesicle* and the *phlegmatic habit*, have heretofore been entirely overlooked, therefore,

13th. The dry crusts should always be employed for the purposes of vaccination, and great caution enjoined that the vesicle be not lacerated in its forming stage.

14th. The months of November and December present the finest season for vaccinating; and the summer months should be avoided.

15th. All children of phlegmatic parents, and all persons of the phlegmatic habit particularly, should be *re-vaccinated*, or have a *second insertion*, agreeably to the method proposed by Mr. Bryce, and *repeated* until a full impression be made upon the system; and if it be necessary at any time to take lymph from the vesicle to vaccinate others, as when exposed to the smallpox, a second insertion should be made in the opposite arm.

INFALLIBLE CORDIALS :

Or, which shall we consult, Dr. Swaim or Dr. Potter ?

THE twin stars, says the London Spectator, in the curative world of our Transatlantic brethren at the present moment, are Dr. Swaim and Dr. Potter. Swaim is inventor of the Panacea, Potter of the Catholicon. The former hoists as his sign in the New-York Advertiser, three bottles modestly ticketed "Swaim's Panacea, Philad—a." The more learned and ambitious Potter has called mythology to his aid, and sports on his shield a *Hercules slaying the Hydra*. Half a dozen of heads are twisting and hissing on the ground, and three or four most truculent looking fellows are cresting and cursing, but of course to no purpose, against the Catholicon, or rather its emblem, the club of the demigod, that is about to light on their crowns and stretch them alongside of their comrades. Swaim has but one case, but that is a thumper. The patient, a female, about thirty or thirty-two years of age,—perhaps thirty-three,—had lost the whole of one eye and three-fourths of the other, all the nose, and the better part of the mouth; the tongue luckily was uninjured. Dr. Swaim was introduced to this fragment of humanity; and, with the modest intrepidity of a great man, exclaimed, "I cannot restore the lost eye nor replace the lost nose,—but I will cure the other eye and the mouth in a twinkling!" He said it, and he did it, as old General Fawcett of the *Invincibles* has it,—the woman was cured! Potter's cases make up in number what they lack in length,—

he has three to Swaim's one. The first is that of Betty Battle, who had fought with a tickling cough for—sixty-five years! She was cured by the time she finished her third bottle. The second case is Dolly Bender's. Dolly had stooped under the *rheumatiz* for fifteen years, until she was so bent by its inflictions, that a trundling hoop was a straight going Christian compared with Dolly's obliquity. A couple of bottles made Dolly as straight in the back as a Prussian grenadier. The last case is that of Thomas Topkins, whose sore throat had kept him from eating for—a twelvemonth. Topkins topped it over inflammation, and starvation, and a *nation* of other evils, by the time he had topped a bottle. It might at first seem a matter of indifference to which of these great benefactors of the human race a fellow who had a mind to live for four or five hundred years had resource,—but here comes the rub: POTTER's patients had swallowed, heaven knows how many, bottles of the Panacea, to no purpose; and SWAIM's had gulped down as many measures of the Catholicon with equal effect: so that even Swaim may fail, and Potter does not always succeed. There is still, however, a comfort in store,—if the one cannot cure you, the other will; so our readers, who wish to enjoy the mellow wisdom of the Spectator to the year 2076, (when it is our intention to resign the management of it,) must as speedily as possible send to the original venders for a due supply of both cordials, and keep to that which, on a fair trial, shall best suit itself to their respective stomachs.

 SKETCHES OF PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

BLISTERS IN ABORTION.

FEW practitioners are aware of the extreme frequency of abortions. Let any one direct his attention to the

subject, and make inquiries as often as proper opportunities offer, and he will be surprised how few women who have been a number of years

married, can tell him they have never miscarried. It is usually to such cases as are attended with some alarming symptoms, or where a desire to have living children has been often disappointed, that medical aid is called. Of these, it is chiefly the latter in which we can entertain much hope of answering the full expectations of our anxious patients.

Among the means which have been from time to time proposed for breaking up this morbid habit of miscarriage, we notice in the N. Y. Med. and Phys. Journal, a suggestion by Dr. Belden, which is altogether novel in character, and has been, in the opinion of Dr. B., successful in practice. It is the establishment of an issue from a blistered surface, to be continued through the period of habitual miscarriage. The case related in which this application was made, is a strong one, but many such would be necessary to prove the efficacy of the practice. The patient, a lady of enfeebled health, had undergone several successive abortions before coming under the care of Dr. B. During part of the period in which they occurred, she was subject to the efforts of judicious and distinguished practitioners to prevent them. All their expedients failed of success, as did also those of Dr. B., until he advised her a blister, about the size of a half-dollar, on the leg near the patella. This was directed to be dressed with cabbage leaves, and subsequently to be kept open by savin cerate. As the blister discharged, the bearing down pains and uneasy sensations about the uterus disappeared.—By want of

care, the blister was allowed after a time to dry up. The pains now returned, and were again removed by the reapplication of the blister: keeping this open and freely discharging, the lady had the satisfaction, at the expiration of her full time, of presenting her husband with a fine healthy son.

Dr. B. supposes the blister in this case acted as a counter-irritant; and we should say his single illustration is just enough, (and it is all the Doctor seeks,) to encourage a trial of the expedient in other similar cases. So small a blister is required, that its inconvenience cannot be a very serious objection to the experiment.

REMARKABLE HERNIA.

A CASE is recorded in the Provincial Gazette in which the whole of the intestines were protruded into the scrotum. The hernia was caused by an accident which befel the patient, —a laborer, *æt.* 50. He had been knocked down in the street, and a cart laden with bricks passed over the abdomen. His scrotum, on inspection, was found to be of an enormous size, extending two-thirds downwards between the thighs; and the skin over it was black, and so exceedingly thin by over-distension, as to threaten rupture on the slightest manipulation. The abdomen was empty and its integuments flaccid, and a line of ecchymosis across the umbilicus marked the exact course of the wheel over the body. Retching, vomiting, syncope, cold extremities and cold sweats, accompanied the severe pain suffered by the patient.

This hernia was reduced, and after about three weeks judicious treatment, the patient was discharged from the hospital cured. He was subsequently subject to occasional attacks of diarrhæa, and was obliged to wear constantly a double truss.

IODINE AND MORPHINE.

In the *Journal de Chemie Médicale*, we find several cases of glandular enlargements which yielded to a persevering use of the Iodine and Morphine combined, after the separate use of the Iodine had failed to excite the action of the absorbents. By this combination, a larger quantity of the Iodine may be introduced into the system than it would be proper to administer in its simple state.

OBSTINATE SINUSES.

MR. SYME, a Surgeon and Lecturer at Edinburgh, has published in the *Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journal*, an opinion that those sinuses which sometimes prove so obstinate in the vicinity of the pelvis, are occasioned not by caries, but by exfoliation of the bone. In many cases he has detected such exfoliation, and given

great relief by removing the osseous pieces. Surgeons would do well to keep these facts in view, since, if the true cause be that assigned by Mr. S., they may, by dilating the external openings of such sinuses, ensure an easier and speedier exit for such pieces of bone as may have separated.

INTERMITTENT FEVER,

Cured by Endermic Administration of Sulphate of Quinine.

A LATE Italian Journal contains a very satisfactory evidence of the efficacy of this new method of soliciting the virtues of remedial agents. Fifteen cases of tertian agues were treated by applying the Sulphate of Quinine to blistered surfaces, and in all of them the disease was overcome. The arm was the place chosen for the blister, and the skin was previously rubbed with concentrated vinegar, in order to secure the speedy and thorough action of the vesicator. Eight or ten grains of the medicine, mixed with a small quantity of simple cerate, were then placed on the denuded surface. In a few cases only was a second dose necessary.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, JULY 21, 1829.

MALARIA.

THIS is a subject of high practical importance. It is a subject generally but little understood; one which has recently excited great interest in the medical profession, and is, for very obvious reasons, growing in importance and interest among ourselves. A late and highly valuable

work on this subject, by Dr. McCulloch, exhibits a summary of the facts and principles considered as previously established in regard to it, together with some new and ingenious speculations by the author himself. We propose to present our readers with a brief analysis of this work, together with such other

remarks as the topics introduced may suggest to us. If we find it impossible to do this without covering several pages, the importance of the subject will be ample apology for our prolixity.

That causes of disease exist in the atmosphere, is a proposition so clearly established by our daily experience, that when stated in terms, it comes to us with the air of a truism. In many conditions of the atmosphere when it comes in contact with the mucous passages, it is well known to be capable of producing local inflammation; its agency in the production of catarrh, for example, quinsey, and bronchitis, is universally familiar. It was well known, however, to the ancients, and their experience has been confirmed by that of modern times, that the air might be, and in certain situations was, *impregnated* with noxious qualities, which enabled it to produce effects equally certain, though by no means less obvious; and among these effects the most familiar was intermittent fever or ague. The term *MAL' ARIA*, borrowed from the language of a country which abounds in unhealthy districts, means, in its common and popular acceptance, that kind of air which produces intermittents; and since this disease is most prevalent in the vicinity of marshes, it has been considered to mean little more than air charged with the miasma generated by these marshes, and capable of communicating a malign influence evidenced by the occurrence of a regular intermittent. The researches of later inquirers, however, and among others of our author himself, serve to

show that this view of the subject is altogether a narrow and restricted one; that in the first place, marshes properly so called, are not the only sources of miasma; and, secondly, that the effect of this miasma is not confined to the production of intermittent fever, but extends to a great variety of disease. The most familiar sense of the word *marsh*, is that of a tract of low meadow land incapable of, or not having received, any drainage, and having been inundated by the rains of the winter and spring, gradually dries during the heat of summer. But in fact the immediate cause of miasma is one which is not peculiar to the state of things just described. This cause is no other than *the contact of decaying vegetable matter with water, under a certain elevation of temperature*. The prevalent notion that fresh water alone aids in the decomposition of vegetable matter, and that this process is prevented or retarded by the presence of salt, is proved to be ill founded, and therefore does not impair the universality of the above expression.

We have then three circumstances only which are requisite in order to produce miasm, viz., warmth, the presence of water, and vegetable matter tending to decay. Now these causes may be combined in other situations than those to which, by popular consent, is attached the title of *marsh*. In the first place, their union may occur on too small a scale and for an extent too limited for such a title. Again it occurs, as intimated above, in meadows overflowed by salt water, which, if they

can be considered as marshes at all, are not so in that sense in which these are regarded as the niduses of miasm. Ponds also, though kept permanently at the depth of several inches or even feet, will, if sustaining a luxuriant vegetation, become sources of miasma. Another class of situations, including all the requisites mentioned are, moist grounds or collections of water in situations elevated considerably above the water-level, yet not high enough to secure to them an exemption from heat. Such situations not being marshy in the common sense of the term, have generally been viewed as healthy. But that the fact is otherwise, besides being demonstrable upon the principle assumed, is also ascertained by experience. Again it may be shown, contrary to the prevalent opinion on this subject, that the margins of running streams alternately covered and left bare by the rise and fall of the tide, are not exempted from malaria.

An important question connected with this subject, relates to the existence of miasm in the vicinity of the drains of houses, in which, while there is no living vegetable, the putrefying remains of vegetable substances are always present. That these should be sources of malaria might naturally be expected under these circumstances; and that they are so is shown in the history of every city when neglected, and by the necessity which has been experienced of enforcing the most rigid rules for their due regulation.

Another inference of no small moment, derived from the same principles, relates to the unhealthi-

ness of artificial ponds formed in pleasure grounds for the purpose of ornament. This indeed is among the improvements in ornamental gardening which we have adopted from England; and if it be proved beyond doubt that they have produced disease in that country, the effects which may be traced to them here is surely a subject for serious investigation.

One singular fact is mentioned by Mr. McCulloch as having been observed in Italy, which seems at first difficult to reconcile with the general results of observation on this subject,—that in many instances where marsh lands have been laid dry by drainage, perhaps for the very purpose of removing malaria, they have in consequence become more noxious than before. Something in these cases is no doubt due to the effect of the drains themselves; but the fact probably is, that the lands thus drained are imperfectly dried, and that certain portions of the surface are exposed, in the state of mud, to the action of the sun's rays: and although from this very circumstance such parts might be expected to become dry, yet if they formed the *lowest* portions, sufficient water might collect in them during each winter, for the process to be renewed the following summer.

The *propagation* of malaria, or its extension in other places than those in which it is generated, is a fact well known, and its phenomena correspond to the notions commonly*

* We say commonly, because among the new theories of the present day, we notice an attempt to disprove the existence of malaria, in any proper sense, and to refer the effects attributed to its agency,

entertained concerning its nature and mode of existence. It is a curious circumstance connected with this branch of the subject, and only to be explained by the influence of the winds in conveying contagion, that in many instances a spot of marshy ground will produce disease at a distance, while its nearer vicinity either escapes entirely, or at least is but very partially affected. Several examples of this kind are related by our author.

Another and more familiar fact with regard to malaria, is its disposition to seek a certain level or situation in the atmosphere, leaving the other strata comparatively free. With few exceptions, the portion of the air thus affected is that nearest the soil, particularly where no current of air exists to disturb its natural tendency; and it is also noticed that in some instances, ditches too dry to be the sources of malaria have become its receptacles, which would seem to imply that it possessed a specific gravity greater than that of common air. A few instances indeed are on record, which militate against this supposition, and in which the portion of air nearest the ground has appeared more healthy than that above; they are rare, however, and can only be accounted for by the prevalence of some peculiar current of air, as adverted to above.

With respect to the prevention of the effects of malaria, the best gene-

ral rule is undoubtedly the avoidance of the cause. Exposure however, though always hazardous, is more or less so according to certain circumstances. A very prominent modification of its influence arises from the circumstance of sleep and watching, since all causes of disease are far more active during the former state.—That diet affects the susceptibility to disease, does not admit of dispute; but some difference exists among the authorities in regard to its regulation. Repletion is undoubtedly injurious; but even moderation may be carried too far, and the practical rule on this as on other subjects, seems to be that a medium is the safest course. Mr. M'Culloch thinks that a better diet and the constant use of wine, give to military officers that advantage which they possess over the men in every description of service. With respect to the former cause, it need not be disputed; but the benefit derived from the wine is not a direct benefit,—it may be attributed, doubtless, to the fact that the place of this beverage is supplied among the men by the use of distilled spirit.

The question whether malaria acts upon the system through the medium of the lungs or of the skin, is one of considerable interest, but, as our author remarks, not easy to determine. In fact, with respect to the common cold or catarrh, produced by external cold acting on the body when unusually susceptible, it is not always easy to say whether the lungs become affected by sympathy with the skin which is acted on by the atmosphere, or whether they are more susceptible

to the direct agency of heat and moisture. Such is the theory advanced by Dr. Jones in his late essay on this subject; which essay will form the subject of a subsequent analysis.

of the influence of this agent *because* the usual functions of the skin are deranged. The effect of malaria, however, presents a case less favorable to the supposed exclusive mediation of the skin; because this effect may be produced, however well the general surface is protected from the atmosphere. Furthermore, we are reminded by our author that the lungs present a surface more extensive, more susceptible, and one by which the air is constantly acted on and decomposed; all which is an argument in favor of that view of the subject which makes them the principal medium through which the miasma produces its effects.

With respect to the conveyance of malaria to places at a distance from the localities where they are generated, it has been frequently ascertained that this may be done to a certain extent, through the medium of winds. Miasma has repeatedly been known to pass from an infected port to a vessel anchored at some miles distant, and this so suddenly on a change in the direction of the wind, as to leave no doubt of the vehicle. The author, however, is disposed to carry this doctrine of the influence of aerial currents much farther; and maintains that the intermittents which appear on the eastern coast of England in the spring, are imported on the wings of the wind from the fens and marshes of Holland.

Passing over some topics of inferior interest, we come to the last inquiry suggested by our author, viz.,—what are the effects produced upon the constitutions of those who are

exposed to malaria. This field of investigation, as above mentioned, is thought by him to have been but very imperfectly explored; men of science, in common with the multitude, having been content to refer the occurrence of intermittent fever to this cause, without troubling themselves with the investigation of other maladies, remote and immediate, which are justly attributed to its influence. The manifestations of ill health exhibited by the unfortunate inmates of these infected districts, are such indeed as cannot be mistaken. Their sallow skin at once attracts the notice of the traveller; and when subjected to examination, the cellular texture is found œdematous, and the muscles soft and devoid of elasticity. Should their appearance indicate the presence of fat, it will be found, on closer inspection, that this appearance is deceptive, and results from an hydropic secretion. The eye is dull and yellow, the hair of a pale hue, and the beard scanty; and a tumefied abdomen, with a peculiar enlargement of the right side, suggests a diagnosis often confirmed by the subsequent discovery of diseased structure of the liver, spleen, and mesenteric glands. In the Pontine marshes this aspect of the abdomen, combined with that of the emaciated extremities, gives to the inhabitants an appearance peculiarly hideous.

None of the effects of malaria are more striking than the premature old age which it induces in those who grow up under its noxious influence. Even the children are frequently wrinkled; women at twenty have the appearance of forty, and

those who have arrived at the last period appear to have reached the borders of the grave. It is remarked, however, that the most hazardous portion of life to these miserable beings is that from thirty-five to fifty, and that those who have passed safely through this, seem to have become eliminated as it were, and enjoy, during the rest of their lives, which sometimes last many years, a comfortable existence.

But did malaria belong to that class of morbid agents which, while they impair the physical nature, elevate and improve the intellect, there would still be some compensation, if not to the sufferers, at least to the cause of humanity. But it is said that the reverse is the fact. While the body is wasted by the slow progress of disease, the mind is weakened and the moral sensibility impaired. A proof of the former fact is thought by our author to be found in the apathy with which they regard their own situation, in their attachment to their own soil, and their unwillingness to believe in the existence of the fatal miasma of which they are the victims. That this obstinacy is proof of weakness, we readily admit; but it is a weakness by no means peculiar to the subjects of malaria. We are all slow to feel, and still slower to acknowledge, the defects of that country which we recognize as our own; and although we may not all carry this feeling to that degree of infatuation which induces the unhappy Italian to persist in wearing the poisoned cloak which has already sent its venom into his veins, we can still find a sympathy

in our own hearts for the love of country which glows in his.

"The shuddering tenant of the frigid zone
Boldly proclaims the happiest spot his
own,
Extols the treasures of his stormy seas,
And his long nights of revelry and ease.
The naked negro, panting at the line,
Boasts of his golden sands and palmy
wine;
Basks in the glare or stems the tepid wave,
And thanks his gods for all the good they
gave."

But unhappily there are far better proofs than this blind devotion to his native soil, that the intellectual powers of these unfortunate persons are sacrificed to the Bæotian atmosphere in which they live. In Tuscany it is said that even idiotism is a frequent effect; and farther, that this may be propagated from one generation to another, whenever connections take place under circumstances so revolting.—In regard to the moral degradation which exists in these districts, the crimes imputed to them by travellers are, if truly charged, the best testimony of the fact. We need not recount the black catalogue of these enormities, but will only add that debauchery and murder each find a place among them, and that when the latter is committed, it is always in the mode of cautious assassination; all their vices, according to the authority quoted by Mr. M'C., being of a mean and dastardly character. We hope there is exaggeration in this picture; at any rate, there is neither pleasure nor profit in dwelling on it, and we gladly return to the more interesting as well as more useful field of purely medical inquiry.

Of the specific diseases produced by malaria, fever, intermittent, re-

mittent, and continuous, of course stand preëminent; the first being only the most frequent, and by no means forming the only one arising from this source. Another class of these diseases includes dysentery, cholera, and diarrhœa; diseases formidable at all times, but peculiarly so when rendered epidemic by a prevailing miasma. The sequelæ of these also deserve a place in this connection, as they are nothing less than apoplexy, palsy, visceral obstructions, and dropsy, the two last being those to which may be attributed those frightful instances of personal deformity which have been described above.

Lastly, it is the effect of miasma in producing nervous diseases, which our author deems to have been most overlooked by previous writers, and to which he therefore invites our especial attention. Under this head he includes *tic douloureux*, itself remarkable for often appearing in an intermittent form, together with other affections hitherto regarded as obscure, but which, together with the above, properly constitute the species of the genus *Neuralgia*. The prosecution of this interesting part of the inquiry, the author defers to a subsequent volume, the character of which is to be more strictly medical than that of the present, and which will embrace the results of his researches upon a class of diseases which have particularly engaged his time and attention.

WEN CURED BY IODINE.

THE Editors of *la Clinique* have published a case of unusually large

wen, in which the tincture of iodine, administered in the dose of ten drops twice a day, succeeded in effecting a cure. The patient, (Benjamin Chavie, a native of Savoy,) was eighteen years of age. When he was received into the hospital of Paris, (*Hôtel Dieu*,) the tumor occupied the whole space between the middle of the neck and the collar-bones, and its mechanical effects on the windpipe occasioned great difficulty of breathing, and, in some positions, frequently a sensation of suffocation. A few weeks after commencing the tincture of iodine, a diminution of it was evident; and it continued gradually to decrease till it totally disappeared.

Prevention of Measles.—The following account of the effects of sulphur in affording security against the infection of measles, has been lately published by the Medical Society of Tours:—"In a family of four children, two took the flowers of sulphur night and morning, and were entirely preserved from the contagious influence of the disease, although they continued to live in the same atmosphere, and were allowed to communicate freely with the other children who had the disease. Two of five adults, who lived in the same house, contracted measles; one had before had the disease. They had employed no precautionary means. In another family, one child had measles. Three other children were not separated from the patient: they took, night and morning, sulphur mixed in sugar, and escaped the disease. The dose of the sulphur should be from two to six or eight grains, according to the age.—In another case, an infant took the sulphur as soon as the disease had clearly manifested itself in his brother. In eight days, however, the measles appeared, but the malady ran so favorable a course that it was probable the preservative effects of the remedy had some influence. Four other children were treated in a similar manner: they

were designedly exposed to the contagion, but entirely escaped." Sulphur being an aperient and sudorific, given at the time of sickening, and continued during the progress of measles, is very likely to render the disease mild, and to protect the lungs against the serious mischief, which, in scrofulous subjects, frequently takes place during measles and hooping-cough, and to prevent secondary fever.—*Gaz. of Health.*

The Patent Thomsonian Practice of Physic.—The above dignified title is used to designate the administration of certain vegetable preparations, and the employment of the steam bath, in the cure of a number of disorders. To these medicines, and the mode of administering them, an exclusive privilege is claimed, under a patent from the United States. Several instances have been narrated in the public papers of the fatal effects of this practice, while those interested in its favor assert that these accounts have been falsely misrepresented by the medical faculty, who, they aver, have risen in arms against it, because it is destroying their practice. The support of a number of intelligent and disinterested persons, has given currency to the claims of these Thomsonian practitioners; and, under this sanction, their business has become very extensive, particularly in some of the western States. Without intending to express an opinion on the subject, we will observe that it is the fate of every popular medicine to obtain the kind of support which the practice in question has received. Such preparations are usually active, and, when properly administered, they are beneficial; their indiscriminate employment, therefore, will ensure their occasional usefulness. Whenever they are successful, the cured and their friends, naturally enough, praise the medicine; while the patient, the disease, or the physician, bears the blame, when their

effects are injurious.—*New-York Med. and Phys. Journal.*

Mercurial Pediluvium in Syphilis.—Dr. Verducci substitutes a foot bath of corrosive sublimate, instead of the common method of administering mercury, in syphilis. He dissolves forty-eight grains of corrosive sublimate in a mixture of an ounce of alcohol and a pound of distilled water. A fifth or sixth of this solution is added to a sufficient quantity of tepid water, in a proper vessel for bathing the feet. Warm water should be occasionally added during the bathing, to keep up a proper and agreeable temperature, and the feet should be continued in the bath half an hour at a time. A bad case is mentioned, which was cured after a trial of the foot bath ten or twelve days. How often the pediluvium is to be repeated is not stated, but we presume it is once in twenty-four hours, at bed-time.—*Id.*

Fungus Hamatodes.—Dr. Schutte, a German physician, has lately published a case of this morbid production, in which a composition of alum and red oxyde of mercury succeeded in destroying it. He first employed it in the proportion of six parts of finely powdered alum to one of the red oxyde of mercury, the latter of which he gradually increased till the proportions were equal.

Diseases of the Eye treated at the New-York Eye Infirmary.—Inflammation of the conjunctiva, 226; do. do. with purulent discharge, (adults,) 11; do. do. do. (infants,) 13; strumous inflammation of the conjunctiva, 62; do. do. with pustules, 77; granulated lids and vascular cornea, 32; excrescences of the conjunctiva, 1; inflammation of the cornea, 56; ulcers of the cornea, 28; opacities of the cornea, 24; pterygium, 1; staphyloma, 3; iritis, 59; scleritis, 4; closed pupil, 3; cataract, 19; amaurosis, 71; strabismus, 1; tinea,

54; lippitudo, 35; hordeolum, 3; inversion and eversion of lids, 5; tumors of lids, 18; abscess of lids, 8; ptosis, 4; diseases of lachrymal passages, 24; wounds and injuries, 71; tumors of orbit, 2; exostosis, 1; burn, 2; pediculi ciliarum, 1; anomalous, 6. Total, 925.

Diseases of the Ear.—Otitis, 24; otitis, 8; otalgia, 2; ulcer of the external auditory passage, 1; indurated wax, 8; increased secretion of wax, 2; defective secretion of wax, 5; tympanitis, 1; caries of the temporal bone, 3; paralysis, 1; closure of the eustachian tube, 3; fistulous opening into the mastoid cells, 1; scrofula affecting the ear, 2; contusion of the ear, 1; fungus auri, 2; deafness, unaccompanied with any external symptom, 27. Total, 91.

We have in this city a similar Institution to the above, which is in successful operation. Dr. REYNOLDS, who is at the head of this Infirmary, is a man of skill and experience in treating diseases of these important organs.

Remarkable Case of an Insect supposed to be hatched in the Human Body.

Ballston Spa, July 5, 1829.

DEAR SIR,—The following recital of a phenomenon which happened about a year since, will be a subject of inquiry among naturalists and physicians. A young woman, the daughter of a respectable farmer in Edinburgh, Saratoga county, in this State, while in a field of new mown hay, felt the sting of a large green grasshopper, as she then expressed it.—Some time in the winter following, she discovered a tumor on the shoulder, between the coracoid and acromion process, attended with some pain and uneasiness. After about three weeks continuance, it disappeared from the shoulder, and she felt a pain along the course of the clavicle; and in May it appeared at the side of the neck, partly under the sterno-clio-mastoideus muscle.

Her physician treated her for scrofula with apparent success, for it again disappeared until July, when it was felt once more at the shoulder (the tumor) about the size of a hen's egg, and with evident fluctuation, when it was opened with a small discharge of unhealthy pus, and along with it a living grasshopper, two inches in length and breadth proportionate. The only conclusion is, that the egg must have been deposited the year before, and arrived to maturity by a process of incubation. Should you think this narrative worthy of being generally known, you are at liberty to do as you may think advisable.

I remain your friend, &c.,

ELIPHALET ST. JOHN.

SAM'L L. MITCHELL, M.D. LL.D. &c.

Dislocation of the Knee-Pan.—

A few weeks since, Messrs. Broughton and Mayo, eminent surgeons of London, published an account of a "dislocation of the knee-pan outwards," in which, after all the methods usually employed had failed, they had recourse to a "sudden and a complete flexion of the knee-joint," when the knee-pan, being thus disengaged from the condyle, spontaneously returned to its place. The patient was a very stout dragoon. This practice is, of course, only recommended in those cases which resist the more gentle attempts at reduction. Such cases however are rare, as most dislocations of the patella are reduced with comparative facility.

REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON,

The week ending July 10, at noon.

Of accidental, 2—apoplexy, 1—consumption, 3—croup, 1—disease of the chest, 1—dropsy in the head, 1—drowned, 1—fractured knee, 1—gravel, 1—hip complaint, 1—measles, 3—scurvy, 1—unknown, 3. Males, 16—females, 4. Stillborn, 1. Total, 21.

DIED,—In Charleston, Cecil co., Md., Dr. Francis Le Barron, Apothecary General of the U. S. Army during the last war.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

NOTICE.

BOOKSELLERS, PUBLISHERS, and AUTHORS, are informed, that by transmitting to the Editor, free of expense, a copy of such works as they may write or publish on subjects interesting to the medical profession, they will be entitled to a notice of such works in the pages of this Journal.

CARTER & HENDEE

HAVE just received **LIZAR'S ANATOMICAL PLATES**, in 12 Nos., cold and letter press.

Barton's North American Flora, 3 vols.

do. Medical Botany, 2 vols.

Bonaparte's Ornithology, 3 vols.

A System of Human Anatomy; translated from the 4th Edition of the French of H. Cloquet, M.D. By **ROBERT KNOX**, M.D. F.R.S.E.

TURNER'S CHEMISTRY,—NEW EDITION.

JUST published, and for sale, by **CARTER & HENDEE**,—Elements of Chemistry, including recent Discoveries and Doctrines of the Science. By **EDWARD TURNER**, M.D. F.R.S.E. Second American Edition.

MANUEL FOR THE USE OF THE STETHESCOPE.

CARTER & HENDEE have recently published,—A short Treatise on the different Methods of investigating Diseases of the Chest. Translated from the French of M. Collins, by **W. N. RYLAND**, M.D. From the third London Edition, with Plates, and an Explanatory Introduction, by a Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

In preparing for the American press the English translation of the well known and highly useful work of M. Collins, which translation has passed through three editions in England, the Editor thinks he can render it more acceptable by dispensing with the various prefaces and introductory remarks which encumber the last edition, and by substituting in their place an entirely new introduction, which is in-

tended to embrace the amount of all that is important in the prefaces alluded to, as well as that which is contained in various abstracts and reviews which have appeared of treatises upon the different methods of investigating thoracic diseases, and in some other works which are not generally before the profession in this country.

C. & H. keep constantly for sale Stethoscopes of the most approved form.

FRENCH WATER COLORS.

COTTONS & BARNARD, 184 Washington Street, have for sale, the following Water Colors, of an excellent quality, manufactured by P. C. Lamberlye, (France,) viz: Bistre, Raw Cassel, Burnt Umber, Raw Umber, Egyptian Brown, Vandyke Brown, Brown Pink, Seppia, Violet Lake, Carmine Lake, Sanders Blue, Prussian Blue, Mineral Blue, Indigo, Yellow Ochre, Yellow Mineral, Gamboge, Yellow Orpiment, Yellow Lake, Naples Yellow, Burnt Italian Earth, Burnt Sienna, Raw Sienna, Italian Earth, Crocus Martial, Green Lake, Sanders Green, Sap Green, Mineral Green, Prussian Green, Vermillion, Saturnine Red, Indian Red, Red Ochre, Red Orpiment, Flake White.

Also—a great variety of Newman's, Ackerman's, Reeves's and Osborne's Colors, in boxes and separate cakes.

NEW LONDON WORK.

JUST received, by **CARTER & HENDEE**, corner of Washington and School streets, A Chemical Catechism; in which the Elements of Chemistry, with the recent discoveries in the Science, are clearly and fully explained. Illustrated by Notes, Engravings and Tables, and containing an Appendix of select Experiments, &c. By **THOMAS GRAHAM**, M.D. Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, &c. &c.

C. & H. have also just received, Elements of Chemistry. By **ANDREW FYFE**, M.D. F.R.S.E.

A COPY of Bloomfield's Critical Digest of Sacred Annotation on the Gospels, 3 vols. 8vo. "The most learned Commentary in the English language." For sale by **COTTONS & BARNARD**, 184 Washington Street.

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